

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 4, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response extended to expire on March 4, 2005. Claims 1-52 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Invention I. Claims 1-6, and 10-28, drawn to method of drilling a subsea wellbore, classified in class 175, subclass 217+.

Invention II. Claims 7-9, drawn to method of reducing equivalent circulating density, classified in class 175, subclass 26+.

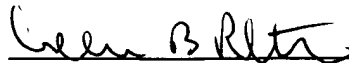
Invention III. Claims 29-52, drawn to method of drilling fluid gas separation, classified in class 166, subclass 105.5.

Applicants provisionally elect Invention III, Claims 29-52, without traverse.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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